to BIFR, has not been getting adequate orders from Railways and its revival scheme is yet to be finalised by BIFR;

(c) whether the LOI was issued based on a limited tender basis and if so, whether it is a fact that the LOI has been issued to a bidder which has its company incorporated *in 1993 only with its manufacturing* facility in India and what has been *their previous record in supplying* such equipment in India;

(d) whether it is a fact that CBI has started investigation in this deal as it appears prima facie that a favour has been done to the prospective supplier; and

(e) if so, whether the persons connected with the tendering process have *shifted to facilitate* an impartial enquiry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) M/s Braithwaite & Company Ltd. has issued a Latter of Intent for procurement of one shot blasting plant only costing Rs. 1,00,10,676/-.

(b) Ministry of Railways are virtually the sole buyers of wagons manufactured in the country. That Ministry had issued instructions to all *wagons manufacturers both in private* and public sector, that the wagons *manufacturers* should place orders for shot blasting equipment latest by November end 1993 failing which Ministry of Railways would not place orders for wagons on such of those companies as had not complied with this requirement.

(c) Yes, Sir. The deal was finalised on the basis of limited tenders to indigenous parties after global bids were found exorbitantly high and were rejected. The Letter of Intent was issued on M/s Pangborn (India) Ltd., a company promoted by a US firm M/s Pangborn Corporation in 1993, which has also stood guarantee/warranty for any defect or failure of the plant.

(d) and (e) One of the parties who lost the bid has complained to CBI. As asked for by CBI, entire documents of the deal have been sent to them.

PSUs Undergoing Financial Losses

1462. SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL alias MEEM AFZAL:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) *what is the total number of* Public Sector Undertakings undergoing financial losses;

(b) how Government propose to remedy the working of such undertakings;

(c) whether any proposal for privatisation of Public Sector Undertakings is under the consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and how the services of the surplus employees are proposed to be regulated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) 104 Central Public Sector Enterprises *incurred losses during 1992-93.*

(b) Improving the performance of Central PSEs is a continuous process. Enterprise specific action is taken by the administrative Ministries/Departments and the enterprises concerned to improve the performance. Some of the measures taken are modernisation and rehabilitation plan, financial, managerial and organisational restructuring, change in product-mix, technological upgradation, signing of Memorandum of Understanding, etc.

(c) Sir, Govt. have only disinvested some if its equity holdings.

(d) Does not arise.

Memorandum submitted by FICCI

1463. SHRI SANJAY DALMIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a delegation from the FICCI have recently submitted a Memorandum to the Prime Minister containing some suggestions for betterment of the country; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SMT. KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The suggestions made are for making efforts towards faster employment generation, improvement in the standard of living of common man and quick and quantum jump in ecnoomic growth. These goals are proposed to be achieved by way of increase in agricultural productivity, speedy development of agro-processing industries, floriculture; horticulture, tourism, small-scale industries, infrastructure and expenditure on R. D. The Memorandum also suggests reforms in the judicial land labour fiscal and financial sectors and more initiatives at the State level.

Creation of favourable circumstances for survival of tiny and informal stetor

1464. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are creating favourable circumstances for the tiny and informal sector in industry to survive in the present liberalised regime;

(b) if so, the steps taken to assist the tiny and informal sector;

(c) whether Government propose to set up regional technology centres to facilitate transfer of technology to the tiny, small and informal sector; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The policy of the Government is to encourage the growth of the tiny including the informal sector through measures designed to increase its competitive strength. A number of steps have been taken subsequent to announcement of policy of liberalisation towards this end such as enhancement in the limit of plant and machinery in respect of tiny units from Rs. 2 lakhs to Rs. 5 lakhs irrespective of the location of the unit, inclusion of business and industry related services as tiny units. Further, the distinction between registered and unregistered units for the purpose of availing of concession under the General Excise Exemption Scheme for SSI Sector has been done away with. However, the primary responsibility for the development of small scale including tiny informal sector rests with the State Governments. The Central Government only supplements their efforts in this regard. Most of the States/Union Territories have announced their Industrial Policies with special incentives/facilities in favour of small, tiny and informal sector.

(c) and (d) There is no proposal at present with the Central Government for setting up Regional Technology Centres for the tiny, Small and informal sector. However, the Small Industries Service Institutes located in various States of the Country and the Regional Testing Centres provide a wide range of consultancy services like techno-economic/managerial common facility services, tooling testing and other types of